

Important Facts Concerning School Consolidation

- Memphis City Schools (MCS) and Shelby County Schools (SCS) will continue to exist as separate entities until the 2013-14 school year.
- MCS and SCS will operate with their own superintendents and existing policies until July 1, 2013, when they begin functioning as a single system.
- In the meantime, all Board decisions for MCS and SCS will come under the jurisdiction of the 23 member Shelby County Board of Education (SCBE).
- The actual formulation of the plan for the merger of MCS and SCS will be designed by the 21 member Transition Planning Commission (TPC), and recommended to the 23 member Shelby County Board of Education.

Role of the Shelby County Board of Education

- Effective October 1, 2011, the Memphis and Shelby County school systems are now being governed by a 23 member Shelby County Board of Education.
- The Board consists of the nine members who had previously been elected to serve on the MCS Board and the seven members who had been elected to the SCS Board. Those 16 members will serve until September 1, 2013.
- The remaining seven members were appointed by the Shelby County Commission.
- The seven appointed members will be replaced by the winners in the school board portion of the regularly scheduled county-wide election in August of 2012.
- In addition to the oversight of MCS and SCS, the 23 member Board has also been charged with the review of the comprehensive transition plan developed by the Transition Planning Commission.
- Once the Shelby County Board of Education approves a plan, it will be implemented by the SCBE.

Role of the Transition Planning Commission

- The Norris/Todd Bill established a 21 member Transition Planning Commission (TPC).
- The TPC was established to recommend a plan for the merger of MCS and SCS.
- The TPC is comprised of the following: five members appointed by the MCS Board, five by the SCS Board, as well as the Board Chairs from each system; five members appointed by the County Mayor, as well as the mayor himself; one appointment each was made by the Governor, the Speaker of the TN House and the Speaker of the TN Senate.
- The TPC is responsible for devising the comprehensive transition plan for the merger of MCS and SCS at the start of the 2013-14 school year.
- Once a plan has been formulated, it will be submitted to the Tennessee Department of Education for review and comments and to the 23 member Shelby County Board of Education for consideration and approval.

Key Dates

October 1, 2011 - The Memphis and Shelby County school systems, while still separate, began being governed by the 23 member Shelby County Board of Education.

August, 2012 - During the county-wide election, seven school board members will be elected, who will represent Shelby County as a whole. The newly elected board members will replace the seven board members who were appointed by the County Commission.

August, 2013 - The first school year for the newly consolidated school system begins.